

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VALLET 01344 181443Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /061 W  
-----018305 181448Z /50

O 181255Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8183  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USDELMC BRUSSELS BE  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

S E C R E T VALLETTA 01344

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MT  
SUBJECT: MALTESE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE - ACCESS TO NAVAL  
- FACILITIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VALLET 01344 181443Z

REF: STATE 126024

1. I CONVEYED US POSITION ON ACCESS DESCRIBED REFTEL TO  
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA-RIN THIS MORNING, EMPHASIZING POINT  
THAT WE PREFER EXPLICIT SUPERPOWER EXCLUSION FROM ACCESS  
TO MALTESE FACILITIES RATHER THAN MORE GENERAL FORMULATION.

2. I TOLD DA-RIN THAT I THOUGHT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE MAY 18-19 TALKS IN ROME WITH THE MALTESE HAD ALREADY BEGUN, I WAS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND TO WASHINGTON THAT OUR EMBASSY IN ROME BE INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY OUR POSITION DIRECTLY TO THE MFA IN ROME AS WELL. DA-RIN (WHO OBSERVED THAT HE AGREED WITH OUR POSITION ON ACCESS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS "A BIT LATE IN THE DAY") SAID HE PREFERRED THAT I NOT DO SO AND THAT I ALLOW HIM TO COMMUNICATE OUR POSITION TO ROME.

3. HIS REASON FOR THIS CONTINUES TO BE HIS SENSITIVITY, BOTH VIS-A-VIS THE FRENCH AND HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, OVER THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE HAS SHARED SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FORMULATION WITH US. AS HE PUT IT, "I AM IN ENOUGH HOT WATER ALREADY WITH EVERYONE CONCERNED, SO LET ME HANDLE IT WITH MY PEOPLE."

4. I SAID I HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, ALTHOUGH POINTING OUT THAT I KNEW OUR EMBASSY IN ROME HAD HAD AN EARLIER DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER (ROME'S 7077) WITH GOI CONTACTS, AND THAT I ASSUMED THEY MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH AGAIN IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. DA-RIN CONCEDED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLE BUT HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD NOT INDICATE TO OTHERS THAT HE HAD SHOWN US SPECIFIC LANGUAGE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VALLET 01344 181443Z

5. COMMENT: DA-RIN APPEARS TO AGREE COMPLETELY WITH OUR POSITION SO I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT HE WILL COMMUNICATE IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, AND ASSUMING WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH MFA ROME, I SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT ALSO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN DIRECTLY TO THE ITALIANS, IF NECESSARY AVOIDING REFERENCE TO WHAT WE HAVE HAD FROM DA-RIN ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN PRESENT FORMULATION AND PUTTING OUR POSITION SIMPLY IN TERMS OF OUR CLEAR PREFERENCE AS STATED PARA 3 REFTEL. THAT, AND OUR POLITICO/STRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR THAT POSITION, IS WHAT WE NEED TO GET ACROSS.

6. INCIDENTALLY, DA-RIN TELLS ME THAT HE HAS SOME REASON TO THINK THAT MINTOFF WOULD LIKE TO SMOOTH RUFFLED FEATHERS A BIT WITH THE ITALIANS OVER THE EPISODE INVOLVING HIM AND FELICE. HE IS THEREFORE CONTINUING A VERY LOW KEY POSTURE BUT IS ALLOWING HIS MISSION OTHERWISE TO ACT REASONABLY COOPERATIVELY IN DAY-TO-DAY RELATIONS WITH GOM, LOOKING TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS STAY HERE WILL NOW BE EXTENDED UNTIL HIS NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY IS COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE YEAR. LAINGEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY POLICIES, VISITS, MILITARY BASES, PORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** MALTESE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE - ACCESS TO NAVAL - FACILITIES SECRET  
**TAGS:** MPOL, MT, US, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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